

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; claims 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lai et al.; claim 22 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and claims 1-5 and 17 were allowed.


Accordingly, without acquiescing to the appropriateness of the prior art rejection issued by the Examiner, and solely to further advance prosecution of this application, the subject matter of allowable claim 22 has been incorporated into independent claim 21, and claims 6-16, 18-20 and 22 have been cancelled.

Thus, because only claims remain which have been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, with the allowed claims being 1-5, 17 and 21, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Norio KIMURA et al.

By: 
Joseph M. Gorski
Registration No. 46,500
Attorney for Applicants

JMG/edg
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
April 22, 2005